

any fees required therefor (including fees for net addition of claims) are hereby authorized to be charged to our Deposit Account No. 19-0036.

Amendments

Please amend the application as follows:

In the Claims:

Please enter the following new claims 151-157:

- C.
- Sc
151. (New) A method of producing a nucleic acid molecule comprising:
- (a) providing a first nucleic acid molecule comprising at least one promoter and at least a first *loxP* site;
 - (b) providing a second nucleic acid molecule comprising at least one antibiotic resistance gene and at least a second *loxP* site; and
 - (c) forming a mixture between said first and second nucleic acid molecules and at least one Cre recombination protein, under conditions sufficient to cause recombination between said first and second *loxP* sites, thereby producing a third nucleic acid molecule in which said promoter and said antibiotic resistance gene are operably linked.

152. (New) The method of claim 151, wherein said antibiotic resistance gene is selected from the group consisting of a chloramphenicol resistance gene, an ampicillin resistance gene, a methicillin resistance gene, a tetracycline resistance gene and a kanamycin resistance gene.

153. (New) The method of claim 151, wherein said antibiotic resistance gene is a chloramphenicol resistance gene.

154. (New) The method of claim 151, further comprising introducing said third nucleic acid molecule into a host cell.

155. (New) The method of claim 151, further comprising introducing said third nucleic acid molecule into a host cell and expressing said antibiotic resistance gene.

156. (New) The method of claim 154, wherein said host cell is an *Escherichia coli* cell.

157. (New) The method of claim 155, wherein said host cell is an *Escherichia coli* cell.
